

Message Text

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21

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 031655Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3674

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2207

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, PU, PO, MZ, AO

SUBJ: NEW OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI

REFS: A. STATE 135027

B. YAOUNDE 2162 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS DELIVERED TO NEW OAU SEC GEN ETEKI. ETEKI COMMENTS ON EVOLVING SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. BELIEVES SPINOLA'S CONCEPT OF REF-ERENDUM IN TERRITORIES TO DETERMINE POPULATION'S WISHES NOT REALISTIC.

2. I PRESENTED SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO ETEKI JULY 2 (REF A). HE EXPRESSED APPROPRIATE THANKS AND SAID HE WOULD SEND REPLY.

3. ETEKI IS LEAVING IN A FEW DAYS FOR ADDIS TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARIAT STAFF AND TO BEGIN TO ORGANIZE HIS PROGRAM. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE WILL VISIT A FEW AFRICAN CAPITALS, AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. (HE IMPLIED THAT NUMBER WOULD BE VERY LIMITED AT THIS STAGE.) HIS FIRST TASK, HE BELIEVES, IS TO ORGANIZE WORK
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AND GET ON TOP OF HIS JOB. OBVIOUSLY LIBERATION ACTIVITIES ARE

A PRIORITY BUT THEY WILL BE A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT HIS MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

4. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY SITUATION OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. HE RECOGNIZED INTERNAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SPINOLA GOVERNMENT BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT IT NOT MUFF PRESENT AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND REASONABLE SOLUTION TO COLONIAL PROBLEM. GUINEA-BISSAU SHOULD BE THE EASIEST PROBLEM TO DEAL WITH. PORTUGAL NEED ONLY RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED AND NEGOTIATE NEW RELATIONSHIP ON THAT BASIS. WHILE AFRICAN COUNTRIES PROBABLY WONT SAY SO PUBLICLY THEY APPRECIATE THAT CAPEVERDE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF GUINEA-BISSAU. HE FELT THAT PORTUGAL'S MAIN INTEREST IN CAPE VERDE WAS STRATEGIC ONE AND THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD REFLECT THAT INTEREST.

5. ETEKI FELT PRESENT PORTUGUESE EMPHASIS ON AN EVENTUAL REFERENDUM IN THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES WAS NOT REALISTIC OR DESIRABLE. IN HIS MIND PORTUGAL COULD NEGOTIATE A MUCH MORE SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TERRITORIES BY ACCEPTING THE LEADING LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN A PARTICULAR TERRITORY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT TERRITORY. CERTAINLY A REFERENDUM IS NOT NEEDED IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND FRELIMO DOMINANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE SEEMS CLEAR. THE TIME INVOLVED IN PREPARING FOR A REFERENDUM, THE COMPETING POLITICAL GROUPINGS THAT WOULD SPRING UP, AS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THE CONFUSION TO WHICH IT WOULD GIVE RISE AMONG THE MASS OF THE POPULATION CAN ONLY HEIGHTEN UNREST AND DIVISIONS WITHIN THE TERRITORY. RECOGNIZING NOW MOZAMBIQUE'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE AND NEGOTIATING TERMS WITH FRELIMO, HE BELIEVED WOULD PERMIT A MORE REASONED NEGOTIATION THAN IS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE IF THE PORTUGUESE INSIST ON A REFERENDUM A YEAR HENCE.

6. ETEKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THERE MUST BE LEAD TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER AND THIS THE OAU CONSIDERS AS ONE OF ITS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES. HE THOUGHT HOLDEN ROBERTO'S MOVEMENT (GRAE) WAS GAINING THE UPPER HAND SINCE IT HAD MOBUTU'S SUPPORT.

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